

CLASSIFICATION

SECURITY INFORMATION

REPORT

COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

TOPIC Soviet Troops at the Altengrabow Training Area

EVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED

DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED 25 September 1951

REFERENCES

PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

50X1-HUM

1. On 25 August 1951, 20 x 45-mm AT guns and an undetermined number of motor vehicles, were loaded at the Altengrabow (N 53/2 00) railroad station. (1) On the same day, soldiers were seen parachute jumping from a captive balloon over the training area.

2. A convoy of 14 trucks, which moved along the Doernitz-Magdeburgerforth road toward Magdeburgerforth on 3 September, carried about 300 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, mostly with artillery insignia, and towed four 57-mm AT guns.

After an interval of about 15 minutes, the convoy was followed by 8 T-34 tanks and 2 six-wheel armored personnel carriers, each carrying 10 tank personnel.

3. From 30 to 40 artillery pieces of undetermined type were parked in open sheds at the ordnance lot. About 350 troops, organized in platoons of about 35 men each and carrying hand arms, trenching tools, and silhouette targets, were seen marching out of the North Camp. Billeting equipment was unloaded from several trucks standing in the camp yard. Eight heavy artillery pieces without muzzle brakes stood in an open shed. Trucks were seen entering the camp. About 130 trucks, but no guns, were seen on the ordnance lot.

50X1-HUM

4. Trucks were seen hauling gasoline barrels from four railroad cars standing at the barracks yard in Altengrabow toward the ammunition depot. Five occupied low wooden buildings were seen at the depot. Three wooden buildings, with trucks and guns parked nearby, were seen at the filling plant of the depot.

5. An artillery unit, with 12 x 122-mm guns and 25 to 30 trucks, bivouacked in a patch of woods at marker 103 about 2.5 km south of Gross Luebars. Trucks were seen driving toward this bivouac site.

50X1-HUM

CLASSIFICATION ~~SECRET~~/CONTROL/US OFFICIALS ONLY

50X1-HUM

SECRET/CONTROL/US OFFICIALS ONLY

- 2 -
SECURITY INFORMATION

6. Reports of artillery pieces were heard from the artillery range at irregular intervals throughout the day. [redacted]

50X1-HUM

(2)

7. At the beginning of September, troops were repeatedly seen practicing with gas masks. (3)

8. A heavy AAA unit was unloaded at the Altengrabow railroad station from a 30-car train on 29 August. [redacted]

(4) On the same day, a train carrying eight 76-mm AT guns and an undetermined number of motor vehicles [redacted]

left Altengrabow. (5) A train of 30 cars with troops and vehicles, [redacted] was dispatched on 4 September. Another train of 30 cars carrying troops with heavy artillery pieces and vehicles, [redacted]

was dispatched on the same day. (6) Two troop trains were dispatched from Altengrabow to Altemburg on 6 September. One train was loaded with eight long-barreled 122-mm guns and vehicles, [redacted]

The other train carried 76-mm AA guns and vehicles [redacted]

(7)

9. Russian girls in civilian clothes, who arrived at Altengrabow at the end of August and the beginning of September, were issued uniforms by the troops there. They were to replace German work personnel. (8)

50X1-HUM

Comments.

- (1) The train [redacted]

carried a component of the 12th Gds Tank Div and probably went to Neuruppin.

- (2) [redacted]

The estimate of 15,000 troops there, as stated in the present report, approximately equals the total billeting capacity. The vehicles observed in the training area belong to the unidentified AT Arty Brig, possibly the 3d Gds of the LXXIX Itz Rifle Corps, the unidentified artillery division in Potsdam, the 6th Arty Div, the 10th Gds Tank Div and the unidentified AAA Div, possibly the 326. The vehicles observed at the artillery bivouac belong to the 6th Arty Div and the unidentified AT Arty Brig, possibly the 3d Gds. In addition, individual vehicles of units other than those mentioned above belong to: the unidentified Mortar Brig, possibly the 65th of the 6th Arty Div; the 25th RL Brig of the IV Arty Corps; the unidentified Gun Arty Brig, possibly the 44th; the 136th Gds Hv Tank SP Regt; Hq Third Shock Army; and Hq First Mecz Div.

- (3) Intensified gas-defense training was also reported from other troop training grounds and military posts of the Soviet Zone of Germany.

50X1-HUM

- (4) The train which [redacted] carried a component of the 2d Gds AAA Div was probably [redacted] en route from Potsdam to Altengrabow.

- (5) [redacted] the train carried a component of the unidentified AT Arty Brig, possibly the 4th Gds of the IX Itz Rifle Corps.

SECRET/CONTROL/US OFFICIALS ONLY

~~SECRET/CONTROL/US OFFICIALS ONLY~~

- 3 -

50X1-HUM

50X1-HUM

SECURITY INFORMATION

- (6) [redacted] the two outgoing trains carried elements of the unidentified AT artillery brigade of the XXVIII Pz Rifle Corps. 50X1-HUM
- (7) [redacted] the two trains carried components of the 43d (Gds) Gun Arty Brig of the Eighth Gds Army. A few vehicles of this brigade have been observed at Altengraben since the beginning of May 1951. 50X1-HUM
- (8) The information does not necessarily indicate that the incoming Soviet girls were always issued uniforms. Articles of military clothing were probably issued only to those women who arrived in pairs. 50X1-HUM

50X1-HUM

~~SECRET/CONTROL/US OFFICIALS ONLY~~